COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

BUDGET SESSION OF 1101.

Friday, the 15th of Karkadagam 1101.
30th of July 1926.

The fifth meeting of the budget session of 1101 commence in the Town Hall, Ernakulam, at 11-30 a. m. on the 15th of Karkadagam 1101, corresponding to the 30th of July 1926, with the President in the Chair. Messrs. Lonappan Chakkola, S.F. Nunez, Poulo Mampilli and H. J. Walmesly were absent.

President.—We will commence the day's proceedings with Questions and Answers as usual.

Dr. A. R. Menon's explanation.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, may I make a personal explanation with reference to what I said yesterday during the course of the discussion?

Though I was within Parliamentary bounds so far as the language was concerned, yet it is my opinion, on mature reflection and also the opinion of my friends whose advice I value very much, that the temper of that speech could have been moderated to a very great extent. In calmer moments, I have come to the conclusion that it would have been much better, had I moderated the tone of that speech. All I can say in explanation is that that speech was delivered on the spur of the moment, without writing it down calmly, collectedly and deliberately. Hence, any expression that I might have used yesterday should be viewed in the light of this explanation.

You were pleased to observe, Sir, that it is a great acquisition for a Member to have a calm temperament. While I entirely agree with that view, I cannot help observing that all of us are not endowed with that attitude of mind. Some of us are tempered, short-while others possess a placid temperament. But both have a place in the scheme of things in this universe.

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While I do not wish to withdraw one single word of what I said yesterday, I regret the temper in which that speech was uttered, and if I have wounded the dignity of the House,—as I have already expressed my request—I hope the Council will efface the memory of yesterday's incident from its mind (*Hear, hear*).

The President's reply.

President.—This gives me an occasion to say a few words regarding the conduct of the Proceedings of this Council.

I am very thankful to Dr. A. R. Menon for the way in which he has given expression to the incident of yesterday. I must tell you that I have got a high regard for his opinions, and I know that what he utters comes out of the sincerity of his conviction. I have always known him as a man of good heart. I have been carefully watching the proceedings of this Council, and I have noticed that at times some feeling is exhibited when the question of appointments enters into our discussion. (*Hear, hear*). It appears to me the only occasion when a sort of communal feeling is exhibited in its utmost form—its most undesirable form. If the Members will not consider it presumptuous on my part to give a word of advice, I would like to tell them all that it is better that no reference is made in this Council to the question of appointments on a communal basis. We have been told, times without number, how these appointments have been made. Only when reference is made to the question of appointments, this communal difference arises. We know, from facts and figures, how the appointments have been made, how many members of each community are now represented in the service, and what is the real state of things. So far as the Government policy is concerned, these appointments are not a monopoly for one particular community—they do not exist for one set of persons. Having regard to the efficiency of the service, having regard to the qualifications of persons who seek the appointment, the Government try to choose the best man available. (*Hear, hear.*) So far as communal representation is concerned, that also iskept in view. But the most important consideration is that we want the best man.

Suppose one community says "We have not got our persons in the service ; you must choose them ", and when I look to the persons of the community, and when I find that there are no qualified persons to fill up the posts and do justice to the work that they are placed in, what am I to do ? Am I to select that person simply because he belongs to that community and should

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